

early a.m. 7/4/72 While writing JER I heard a radio news item saying that McCord has engaged the F. Lee Bailey firm to defend him in the bugging case. I regard this as exceptional for a number of reasons. For one, people don't generally understand the enormous fees such firms extort, but they are enormous. Foreman held forth at some length on this to a number of people I have interviewed on tape, for the affidavits. This means McCord has new resources far beyond what he could possibly have on his own, from his won work and savings. In turn, that means he was working for a wealthy principal. Somebody wants McCord very well defended. The most likely candidate would have been Edward Bennett Williams, but that was ruled out not only because he represents the Democrats in this but because his partner is general counsel for the Democratic National Committee. Under the circumstances, I would say that this means somebody has gotten McCord the best possible counsel and that can mean not McCord's but another interest is being served. Carrying this a bit further, off the top of the head, I would not say that it means the Republican hierarchy is directly involved but is indirectly, as thru one of its subsidiaries or committees or affiliates, of which I'm inclined to consider the Cubans still most likely. The Cubans could not, on their own, come up with the ~~large~~ fees this kind of defense requires. Nor can that \$89,000 provide it, for there are six people at least involved in this, and if they divide what remains of it, it is far short of a Bailey defense. Meanwhile, why of all those thus far identified does McCord get top representation? It may turn out that Bailey will represent all, but that is not what the report said. There remains the perhaps remote possibility that McCord's official connections were not entirely severed, as Hunt's were not in 1965 when he told Who's Who they were; and there is the strange thing of General Foods having a staff lawyer in the p.r. firm with which Hunt was associated. If nothing else, this gets more entertaining and more fascinating. Paper not here yet, so I don't know if there is more in it. Yesterday I got a thanks letter from Lawrence O'Brien. Not a form letter. H